

TURKEY'S GLOBAL DECLINE: DEMOCRACY AND JUDICIARY IN CRISIS



165th OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES IN FREEDOM OF THE PRESS:

"Authoritarianism is gaining ground in Türkiye, challenging media pluralism. All possible means are used to undermine critics." Reporters Without Borders

Turkey ranked 165 among 180 countries in the 2021 Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders.¹



117TH OUT OF 142 COUNTRIES IN THE RULE OF LAW INDEX:

Turkey ranks 117th out of 142 countries in the Rule of Law Index and 133rd out of 142 countries in terms of fundamental rights.²



147TH OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES IN THE SAFETY RANKING:

Turkey is ranked 147th out of 163 countries in the World's Safest Countries index according to the Economy and Peace Institute.³



140 OUT OF 169 COUNTRIES IN THE DEMOCRACY INDEX:

Turkey ranked 140th in the Liberal Democracy Index list, categorized as an electoral autocracy, and defined as among the worst offenders along with Nicaragua, Central African Republic, and Guatemala.⁴



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NUMBERS⁵



ONE OF EVERY 3 JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS PURGED:

More than 4,000 judges and prosecutors were dismissed, leading to the elimination of one-third of Turkey's total population of legal professionals in a short period. This purge resulted in the swift appointment of members from the ruling party to fill these vacancies, compromising the independence of the judiciary and transforming the law into a tool for government purges.⁶



7000+ ACADEMICS DISMISSED:

More than 7,000 academics have been dismissed from both public and private universities, including those who signed a declaration advocating for peace and those employed in closed universities.



NUMBER OF FEMALE PRISONERS IN TURKEY SURPASSED 17,000:

The number of incarcerated individuals in Turkey has surpassed its historical record, straining prison capacity. Particularly alarming is the significant increase in the number of imprisoned women, with over 17,000 detained amid mass purges for political reasons.⁷



AROUND 3,000 YOUNG CHILDREN GREW UP IN PRISON:

Over 3,000 young children have been imprisoned since the 2016 coup attempt, with over 850 babies being incarcerated alongside their mothers due to the imprisonment of both parents in many cases.⁸



48 healthcare institutions



2,281 private educational institutions (schools, courses, dormitories, hostels, etc.)



104 foundations



1125 associations



15 private universities - leaving 3,041 permanent staff members unemployed



201 media outlets closed, including print and visual media



The activities of 19 unions and confederations have been terminated.



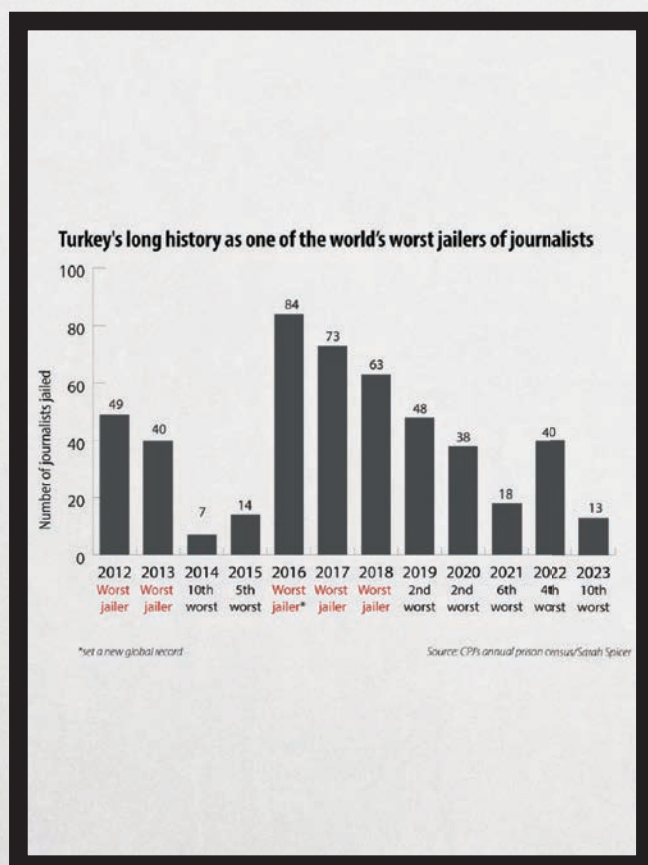
985 companies have been seized by the state and appointed with trustees. The number of workers employed in these companies is 49,587.

ATTACKS ON PRESS FREEDOM AND FREE SPEECH IN NUMBERS:

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

MORE THAN 13 JOURNALISTS ARE STILL IMPRISONED:

Turkey ranks among the highest in terms of the number of journalists in prison, along with countries such as China and North Korea. According to the Reporters Without Borders, **since 2016, a total of 146 journalists have been through detention and incarceration in Turkey.**⁹⁻¹⁰





WOMEN JOURNALISTS PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED AND LEGALLY HARASSED:

- 6 Turkish journalists were assaulted while reporting on the aftermath of earthquakes
- 8 journalists were targeted with legal proceedings including travel bans, and bogus legal charges like “insulting of public officials.”
- Kurdish women journalists are targeted most by the government, cynically using terrorism charges to censor and persecute them.¹¹



SANCTIONS and RESTRICTIONS OF ACCESS: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey’s broadcasting regulator, has imposed a total of 570 sanctions on TV stations. Turkish government restricted Twitter following deadly earthquakes.



\$80 BILLION ILLEGALLY SEIZED and CONFISCATED & \$32.25 BILLION TRANSFERRED to TREASURY and INDIVIDUALS or ASSOCIATIONS in ERDOGAN’S CLOSE CIRCLE:

80 billion USD: The market value of the closed institutions, NGOs, and media organs associated with the Gülen Movement, and also of the illegally seized, confiscated, and expropriated private enterprises and assets of individuals allegedly affiliated with the Gülen Movement

32.25 billion USD: The net worth of the assets transferred to individuals or associations belonging to Erdogan’s close circle¹²



TRUSTEES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO 48 HDP MUNICIPALITIES: The political Islamist government increased its pressure on the Kurdish peoples in Turkey by entering into an alliance with the Nationalist Movement Party, which stands out with its racist and xenophobic stance. In this context, by disregarding democratic principles and institutions, The Turkish government has removed from office 48 co-mayors from the Peoples’ Democratic Party and 72 co-mayors had been arrested since the first trustee appointment in June 2019.¹³



336,315 PEOPLE ARE IN JAIL WHILE THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE PRISONS IS 286,797:

Prisons have become overcrowded due to arbitrary detentions and political revenge operations. Despite its total capacity of 286,797 people, the number of detainees and convicts in Turkish prisons is 336,315 (over capacity by 49,518 prisoners).¹⁴

1 <https://rsf.org/en/country-t%C3%BCrkiye>

2 <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/global>

3 <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/GPI-2023-Web.pdf>

4 https://v-dem.net/documents/43/v-dem_dr2024_lowres.pdf

5 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/turkey/>

6 <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Ceza-Infaz-Kurumu-Istatistikleri-2020-37202>

7 <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/Dokuman/istatistik/istatistik-4.pdf>

8 <https://www.ihd.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/OHAL-KHKlar%C4%B1-Raporu.pdf>

9 graph retrieved from <https://cpj-org.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/cpj.org/2024/02/drop-in-jailed-turkish-journalists-belies-a-long-simmering-press-freedom-crisis/amp/>

10 graph retrieved from <https://rsf.org/en/country-t%C3%BCrkiye>

11 <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615e9c03e618583383cc9786/t/64a680da1d3bca76310608f9/1688633574637/Q1+2023.pdf>

12 <https://www.institute.org/report/persecutory-confiscation-amounting-to-crimes-against-humanity-case-of-the-gulen-group>

13 <https://stockholmcf.org/trustees-appointed-to-municipalities-upon-erdogans-instructions-interior-minister-says/>

14 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/turkey/>

